

GOVERNMENTAL OPERATIONS

Agency 103

Department of Commerce

Recommendation Summary

Dollars in Thousands

	Annual FTEs	General Fund State	Other Funds	Total Funds
2009-11 Expenditure Authority	268.8	90,147	488,152	578,299
Total Maintenance Level	244.5	83,290	371,798	455,088
Difference	(24.3)	(6,857)	(116,354)	(123,211)
Percent Change from Current Biennium	(9.0)%	(7.6)%	(23.8)%	(21.3)%
Performance Changes				
Local Fiscal Note Revenue Source		(493)	493	
Eliminate Legislative Liaison	(.5)	(114)		(114)
Reduce Housing Assistance Programs			(10,090)	(10,090)
Municipal Research and Services Center			662	662
Community Services Block Grant Reduction	(.1)	(444)		(444)
Services to Crime Victims Reduction	(.5)	(2,441)		(2,441)
Response to Crime Victims Reduction		(311)	194	(117)
Community Volunteer Support (CASA)		(68)		(68)
Eliminate Tourism Development	(5.6)	(4,066)	(9,004)	(13,070)
Washington Technology Center Reduction		(300)		(300)
Substance Abuse Response Reduction	(.1)	(225)		(225)
Growth Management Reduction		(1,236)		(1,236)
Affordable Housing Reduction	(.3)	(86)		(86)
Business Development Reduction		(646)		(646)
Family Asset Building Reduction		(826)		(826)
Washington Economic Development Commission		(113)		(113)
Entrepreneurial Stars Reduction		(439)		(439)
Criminal Justice Investments Reduction	(.1)	(295)		(295)
Eliminate New Americans Program		(562)		(562)
State Art Program to Commerce #	7.0	500	2,056	2,556
Broadband Mapping and Planning #	3.8	228	4,324	4,552
Suspend Plan 1 Uniform COLA #		(432)	(362)	(794)
State Data Center Rate Increase		129	66	195
Subtotal	3.7	(12,240)	(11,661)	(23,901)
Total Proposed Budget	248.2	71,050	360,137	431,187
Difference	(20.6)	(19,097)	(128,015)	(147,112)
Percent Change from Current Biennium	(7.7)%	(21.2)%	(26.2)%	(25.4)%
Total Proposed Budget by Activity				
Community Services Block Grant	6.8	3,258	14,142	17,400
Inactive - Developmental Disabilities Council				
Inactive - Developmental Disabilities Endowment Fund				
Services to Crime Victims	10.8	18,786	16,586	35,372
Inactive - Emergency Food Assistance Program				

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	Annual FTEs	General Fund State	Other Funds	Total Funds
Strengthening Criminal Justice Response to Victims of Crime	3.3	2,515	6,045	8,560
Long-Term Care Ombudsman Program	.6	1,580		1,580
Low-Income Home Energy Assistance Program	5.3		80,544	80,544
Inactive - Crime Victims Advocacy and Policy				
Volunteers Supporting Community Capacity	.2	1,531		1,531
Agency Administration	63.3	6,147	8,529	14,676
Community Economic Revitalization Board and Program	3.1		628	628
Tourism Development	(.1)	(393)	91	(302)
Washington Technology Center		4,457		4,457
State Energy Policy	4.7	1,197	2,582	3,779
Lead-Based Paint Hazard Mitigation	3.9		1,552	1,552
Improve and Preserve the Affordability of Housing	14.7		33,456	33,456
Mobile Home Relocation Assistance	1.2		547	547
Bond Cap Allocation Program for Tax Exempt Financing Authorization	1.3		261	261
Community Development Block Grant (CDBG)	8.9	571	33,094	33,665
Community Mobilization Against Substance Abuse and Violence	1.8	1,820	3,584	5,404
Drinking Water System Grants and Loans	2.4		619	619
Growth Management	12.1	3,888	586	4,474
Local Government Fiscal Notes	2.6		493	493
Public Works Infrastructure Grants and Loans	8.7		2,191	2,191
Inactive - Small Communities Initiative				
Inactive - State Building Code Council				
Farm Worker Housing			845	845
Inactive - Energy Siting and Monitoring				
Homeless Housing and Assistance	16.5		46,884	46,884
Affordable Housing Development	29.1	510	42,553	43,063
Business Development	23.9	14,714	5,278	19,992
Inactive - Community Projects			(350)	(350)
Asset Building for Working Families		50	72	122
Global Trade and Investment Services	10.7	3,961	235	4,196
Inactive - Statewide Dispute Resolution Centers				
Washington Economic Development Commission	2.0	641		641
Innovative Research Teams (Entrepreneurial Stars)		3,379		3,379
Criminal Justice Investments	6.7	2,197	10,018	12,215
Inactive - Investing in Local Public Safety Solutions				
New Americans		(266)		(266)
American Recovery Act Funding			21,757	21,757
HERA - Neighborhood Stabilization Program Housing and Economic Revitalization Act	2.3		19,344	19,344
Economic Development - Business Loans	1.9	507	1,884	2,391
Municipal Research and Services Center (MRSC)			6,087	6,087
Total Proposed Budget	248.2	71,050	360,137	431,187

PERFORMANCE LEVEL CHANGE DESCRIPTIONS

PERFORMANCE LEVEL CHANGE DESCRIPTIONS

Local Fiscal Note Revenue Source

Local government fiscal note activities will no longer receive General Fund-State funding. This activity will be funded from the County Research Services Account and the City and Town Research Services Account.

Commerce currently expends \$493,000 and up to 3.2 FTEs on preparing local fiscal notes. (General Fund-State, County Research Services Account-State, City and Town Research Services Account-State)

Eliminate Legislative Liaison

This reduction eliminates the Legislative Liaison position. The liaison's duties will need to be absorbed by the Deputy Director and program staff.

Reduce Housing Assistance Programs

Spending for homeless and transitional housing programs is reduced (Home Security Fund Account-State).

Municipal Research and Services Center

The Municipal Research and Services Center of Washington (MRSC), a nonprofit organization, has provided municipal research and services to cities, towns, and counties since 1969. These consolidated services provide expertise needed by local governments and are especially crucial to smaller jurisdictions. An increase of MRSC's contract budget is necessary to maintain the current level of service. MRSC is funded through a small portion of the cities' distributions of state liquor profits and the counties' distribution of the liquor excise tax. (County Research Services Account-State, City and Town Research Services-State)

Community Services Block Grant Reduction

The Community Services Block Grant, including the actual block grant and administrative expenses, is reduced. State funding reductions will result in more reliance on federal administrative funds, and reduced support for the Washington State Community Action Partnership. The Evergreen Jobs Initiative program is also reduced, resulting in less technical assistance to stakeholders and contractors.

Services to Crime Victims Reduction

Four crime victims programs are reduced, including Advocacy and Policy, Domestic Violence Legal Advocacy, Sexual Assault, and Crime Victim Service Centers. This reduction will result in fewer crime victims receiving crisis intervention, legal advocacy, and referral services.

Response to Crime Victims Reduction

The Victim Witness Program is reduced by \$194,000. This reduction will be offset by Auto Theft Prevention funds for victim assistance. (General Fund-State, Washington Auto Theft Prevention Authority Account-State)

Community Volunteer Support (CASA)

Statewide coordination of the Court Appointed Special Advocate/Guardian Ad Litem Program (CASA/GAL) is reduced. Funding for volunteer recruitment, retention, and training activities is reduced by 10 percent. Other programs that use CASA/GAL will be affected, including the Retired and Senior Volunteer Program and the Dispute Resolution Program.

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Eliminate Tourism Development

All General Fund-State funding for the State's Tourism Development program is eliminated at the end of Fiscal Year 2011. Due to 2010 structural changes, the Washington State Convention and Trade Center is no longer a state agency. Washington State Convention and Trade Center funding comprised two-thirds of the Washington State Tourism Office funding. Sole reliance on General Fund-State funding for the program is not effective or sustainable. The Department of Commerce is actively working with stakeholders to form a new, more stable tourism development and finance model. (General Fund-State, General Fund-Private/Local, Tourism Development and Promotion Account-State, Tourism Enterprise Account-Nonappropriated)

Washington Technology Center Reduction

This reduction reduces collaborative efforts between the Washington Technology Center, universities, private industry, and the government. It also reduces grants and client services.

Substance Abuse Response Reduction

This reduction to the Community Mobilization program eliminates the Healthy Youth Survey and results in fewer client services.

Growth Management Reduction

Growth Management Act (GMA) funding ends for the Marine Container Ports and Walla Walla Community College Water Center at the end of Fiscal Year 2011. Additional reductions are made to available GMA grant funding in the 2011-13 biennium.

Affordable Housing Reduction

Funding reductions for the administration of the Affordable Housing program reduces staff availability and technical assistance to stakeholders and contractors.

Business Development Reduction

Associate Development Organization grants are reduced by 6.3 percent, resulting in less funding available to other business assistance entities.

Family Asset Building Reduction

Funding for the Family Asset Building program is substantially reduced. Of existing programs, only the Earned Income Tax Credit (EITC) assistance program will remain. Department of Commerce shall move EITC activities into the Community Services Block Grant Program.

Washington Economic Development Commission

The Washington Economic Development Commission is reduced by \$113,000. This reduction will result in less outreach and support of local economic development strategies.

Entrepreneurial Stars Reduction

This reduction reduces current efforts by 11.5 percent and results in less funding available for recruitment and entrepreneurs-in-residence activity.

Criminal Justice Investments Reduction

This reduces grants and client services for the State Drug Task Force, which is initiated to disrupt and dismantle drug trafficking.

Eliminate New Americans Program

The New Americans Program is eliminated. Ending the program will reduce naturalization assistance for legal permanent residents eligible to become United States citizens. This reduction diminishes access to services such as counseling, outreach to immigrant communities and citizenship preparation services.

State Art Program to Commerce #

Staff and resources are transferred from the Arts Commission to the Department of Commerce's Community and Local Programs. Activities will include core arts functions, such as conservation of the state art collection, coordination of statewide arts programming, promotion of arts education, and arts grants. Three FTE staff are funded through interagency reimbursement.

Broadband Mapping and Planning #

Broadband Mapping/Planning and the Community Technology Opportunity Program (CTOP) are moved from the Department of Information Services to the Department of Commerce. Federal grants and state match will support the transition to a digitally-based economy. Efforts include: identifying opportunities and issues in the broadband arena; monitoring, tracking and encouraging broadband deployment; and creating programs that promote access and adoption of broadband services around the state.

ACTIVITY DESCRIPTIONS

Community Services Block Grant

The Community Services Block Grant (CSBG) is authorized by the federal Omnibus Reconciliation Act of 1981 (PL 97-35, as amended) for the benefit of people with incomes at or below 125 percent of the poverty line. CSBG allows communities to develop and provide anti-poverty services and community development activities that best meet their local needs. Funds can be used for direct services such as employment readiness and training, emergency services, and housing; to raise other funds; and to support certain capital investments. Commerce's monitoring staff contracts with 30 community action agencies and provides ongoing training and technical assistance, board training and development, strategic planning, and problem solving.

Inactive - Developmental Disabilities Council

Conduct advocacy, systemic change and capacity building activities that lead to a comprehensive system of supports and services for people with developmental disabilities and their families that contribute to independence, inclusion and integration into all aspects of community life.

Inactive - Developmental Disabilities Endowment Fund

Enroll new accounts and provide matching funds and earnings that build assets for the beneficiary with developmental disabilities.

Services to Crime Victims

National data from the Department of Justice crime victimization survey indicates 4.6 million incidents in Washington in 2008, each resulting in at least one victim. The Office of Crime Victims Advocacy (OCVA) ensures that every county in Washington can provide services to help victims recover and return to normal life. Victim services include information and referral, crisis intervention, legal advocacy, medical advocacy, general advocacy and support, support groups, and therapy. OCVA provides funding to Community Sexual Assault programs and other community agencies so victims can access local services and resources during their recovery.

GOVERNMENTAL OPERATIONS

Inactive - Emergency Food Assistance Program

Authorized by RCW 43.330.130, the Emergency Food Assistance Program (EFAP) combats hunger and improves health among low-income individuals and families by supporting nutritious food distribution, food banks, and tribal food voucher programs. This helps improve school performance and reduces illness, which results in fewer days missed at work or school and fewer visits to the doctor. CTED contracts with 33 tribes and 28 local community agencies, which subcontract with 320 nonprofit food bank organizations statewide. EFAP funds may be used to purchase and distribute food, to cover the cost of the food vouchers clients take to local grocery stores, and for administrative and operating expenses. CTED staff develop and issue EFAP contracts, provide contract oversight, monitor program compliance, offer technical assistance and training to meet requirements and improve performance, reimburse monthly expenditure vouchers, and oversee two advisory committees. EFAP will develop and implement the farmers to food banks pilot program. The pilot sites will work with local farmers to provide fruits, vegetables, dairy, and meat products for distribution to low-income people at designated food banks. The sites include one in an urban area with over 500,000 residents, at least one east of the crest of the Cascades, and at least one in a rural county as defined in RCW 34.43.160.020.

Strengthening Criminal Justice Response to Victims of Crime

Victims look to the criminal justice system to provide offender accountability and a sense of justice. The criminal justice system depends on the cooperation of crime victims for reporting, investigation, and sometimes prosecution and corrections. This interdependence has been recognized by both state and federal legislation and funding, resulting in specific programs within the Office of Crime Victims Advocacy. These programs improve coordination and response to victims as they interact with law enforcement, prosecution, courts, and crime victim services. This activity also funds services that support victim safety and support victim participation in the criminal justice system.

Long-Term Care Ombudsman Program

States are required by the federal Older Americans Act to have a Long-Term Care Ombudsman Program. Commerce administers our state's program under Chapter 43.190 RCW using multiple funding sources, including an interagency agreement with the Department of Social and Health Services (DSHS) for Older Americans Act (Titles III-B and VII) funds, State General Fund, Medicaid (Title XIX) match, and some local dollars. The Long-Term Care Ombudsman Program ensures the safety and quality of care of long-term care facility residents by intervening when complaints and situations of possible abuse, neglect, or exploitation arise. Over 400 volunteer ombudsmen are trained, certified, and assigned to nursing homes, boarding homes, and adult family homes. Commerce contracts with a nonprofit organization to run the program, which subcontracts with 14 regional programs and two legal services contractors. Commerce's staff negotiates funding with DSHS; develops the statewide Long-Term Care Ombudsman contract, monitors expenditures and performance; provides technical assistance; and approves plans and policies.

Low-Income Home Energy Assistance Program

The Low-Income Home Energy Assistance Program (LIHEAP) is a federal block grant program authorized by the Low-Income Home Energy Assistance Act of 1981 (Title XXVI of PL 97-35, as amended). LIHEAP helps households with incomes below 125 percent of the federal poverty level meet the cost home heating and avoid utility shut-off and use of unsafe heating alternatives. Commerce contracts with 26 community-based organizations and units of local government to provide funds directly to utility companies on behalf of eligible households. Contractors also provide energy education, furnace repair/replacement, and referrals for other services. Commerce is required to create a LIHEAP State Plan with participation from nonprofit organizations, low-income representatives, utility companies, and other community members. The agency administers contracts, monitors compliance, reimburses expenditures, provides technical assistance, establishes policies and procedures, operates a secure website for on-line data entry and reporting, and evaluates contractor performance.

Inactive - Crime Victims Advocacy and Policy

Authorized under RCW 43.280, CTED's Office of Crime Victims Advocacy (OCVA) provides input to state and local agencies regarding the impact of their policies and procedures on victims of crime. OCVA helps communities develop programs to assist victims by providing funding, training, and consultation to local agencies and organizations. OCVA also provides direct services to victims who believe their statutory or constitutional rights have not been upheld, including referrals and linkages for victims of crime to their local community resources.

Volunteers Supporting Community Capacity

This activity supports organizations that recruit, train, and maintain volunteers who provide services to low-income communities, children, and victims of crime. Volunteers allow those organizations to expand their capacity to reach more vulnerable citizens and improve individual and community well being. State and federal law requires that minors who are involved in juvenile or family court have a court appointed special advocate (CASA) or guardian ad-litem appointed by the court. Programs that recruit, train, and supervise the volunteers are linked through a statewide association, The Washington State CASA. The role of the advocate or guardian is to represent and advocate for the child's best interests in court. Dispute resolution programs train volunteer mediators so that all citizens have access to a low-cost alternative to litigation. Dispute resolution centers are private, nonprofit, or public agencies authorized by local legislative authority under RCW 7.75. Centers are mandated to provide services independent of the clients' ability to pay. Centers also provide training and education related to mediation, communication, conflict resolution, and negotiation. RSVP (Retired and Senior Volunteer Program) uses the talents and experience of volunteers over age 55 to help with diverse community needs. Local RSVP coordinators recruit, screen, and work with city, county, and nonprofit programs throughout the state to place volunteers where needed. State funds count toward the 30 percent match required to receive federal RSVP support.

Agency Administration

Agency Administration represents less than 2 percent of Commerce's total operating and capital budgets, and includes the services and costs which provide effective direction, management, and support of the agency. The Director's Office is responsible for the overall management and leadership of Commerce, including strategic policy development and research, communications, and government relations. Administrative Services provides information technology, human resources, facility management, purchasing/inventory, mail processing services, budgeting, accounting, contracting, and audit review services. Commerce's Agency Administration costs are supported by all programs and fund sources, through a combination of direct appropriation and indirect assessments. The agency negotiates an annual indirect cost rate with the cognizant federal agency.

Community Economic Revitalization Board and Program

The Community Economic Revitalization Board (CERB) is mandated (RCW 43.160) to make strategic investments in publicly owned economic development infrastructure projects that serve as catalysts for targeted sector business growth and job creation. CERB consists of 12 governor appointed members, four legislative members, and four agency representatives as ex officio members. CERB makes low-interest loans (and grants in unique circumstances) available to local governments (including, but not limited to, cities and port districts) and federally recognized tribes. CERB investments must generate either significant job creation or significant private investment. The public facilities that can be funded through a CERB investment include traditional infrastructure such as roads, water, and sewer, but also more specialized infrastructure such as port facilities, buildings, and telecommunications. CERB is also responsible for administering the Job Development Fund Program and monitoring the Local Infrastructure Financing Tool Program.

GOVERNMENTAL OPERATIONS

Tourism Development

The Washington State Tourism Office (WST) convenes, leads, and staffs the Tourism Commission in order to provide strategic and tactical leadership for statewide tourism development in Washington. WST develops and champions the brand "Washington State", develops, enhances, and maintains a tourism website to promote Washington State as a place to visit; serves as statewide tourism representative to develop and strengthen business relationships with domestic and international tour operators and media; creates, develops, and distributes a statewide travel planner; creates, develops, and executes statewide promotions; and creates and promotes new innovative tourism packages for the state.

Washington Technology Center

The Department of Commerce contracts with the Washington Technology Center (WTC) to support the work of the center. WTC facilitates partnerships between universities, private industry, and government which stimulate the economy with revenue generation, new companies, and job creation. The partnerships develop and transfer innovative technology to meet company needs in targeted industry sectors.

State Energy Policy

The Energy Office (ED) provides energy policy support, analysis, and information for the Governor, Legislature, Commerce, and other energy decision makers (Chapters 43.21F and 19.29A RCW). ED analyzes key energy issues including natural gas, alternative fuels, energy efficiency, renewable energy development, greenhouse gas emissions, and energy supply and price. ED also provides technical and policy support to Washington members of the NW Power and Conservation Council, other state agencies, and state congressional officials on federal and regional energy policies and legislation. Working with an advisory committee, stakeholders, and the public, ED develops and implements the State Energy Strategy. It also produces energy use, electricity, and other reports, and represents the state's policy interests in regional and national organizations. The Energy Office ensures statewide energy security and preparedness by protecting the state's energy infrastructure (especially electricity, petroleum, and natural gas). During energy supply or other energy emergencies, it provides assistance to the state emergency operations center, Governor's office, energy companies, utilities, local governments, and others. As needed, it implements emergency actions set forth in RCW 43.21G.

Lead-Based Paint Hazard Mitigation

The Lead-Based Paint Program provides services to ensure work performed in homes and buildings with young children will be done in a safe and healthy manner. The program is responsible for processing certification and accreditation applications, tracking licensees, reviewing training and program effectiveness, providing technical assistance, investigating potential violators, enforcing rules, conducting outreach, maintaining the lead-safe housing registry for low-income housing, and reporting to federal, state, and interested parties.

Improve and Preserve the Affordability of Housing

These programs improve and preserve affordability of housing through energy conservation investments (such as insulating attics, walls, and floors; air sealing the home diagnostically; modifying or replacing inefficient furnaces), health and safety actions (including indoor air quality, mold and lead paint hazard remediation), and other cost-effective and necessary repairs and retrofits (such as roof repair or replacement, plumbing and electrical fixes, ramp replacement). Program resources include federal Department of Energy, federal Low Income Housing Energy Assistance Program, federal Bonneville Power Administration, and state capital funds. Private and other non-state resources are leveraged through utility companies, rental housing owners, federal and state resources, and private grants. Commerce provides technical assistance to local, public, and private nonprofit agencies that deliver these services and coordinates program and technical training scheduling to maintain a qualified workforce.

Mobile Home Relocation Assistance

The Mobile Home Relocation Assistance Program provides the only financial assistance available to homeowners forced to move their homes as a result of mobile home park closures. Reimbursement of actual, documented expenses, up to the published maximums, is paid directly to eligible homeowners.

Bond Cap Allocation Program for Tax Exempt Financing Authorization

The Bond Cap Allocation Program provides authorization for tax-exempt financing through private activity bond sales for environmental protection, low- to middle-income housing, student loans, industrial development, job creation, and infrastructure facilities. The bond cap is the maximum level of tax-exempt Private Activity Bonds that can be issued in the state in a given year. Under federal tax law, the 2010 cap for Washington state was equal to \$90 per capita (based on resident population) or \$599,777,550. This ceiling is adjusted annually in response to changes in the state's population and the IRS's cost-of-living index. The Bond Users Clearinghouse program is mandated by RCW 39.44.210 to report on the municipal debt issued by jurisdictions throughout the state. The program produces the annual General Obligation (GO) report, the bi-monthly Public Debt update, and the annual Public Debt report.

Community Development Block Grant (CDBG)

The Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) program administers federal funds for community facilities, water and wastewater projects, housing rehabilitation grants, economic development grants and loan programs, and community planning to counties with populations under 200,000 and cities under 50,000.

Community Mobilization Against Substance Abuse and Violence

This activity provides grants to communities to develop and implement comprehensive strategies to reduce and prevent alcohol, tobacco, drug abuse, and violence. Community Mobilization is an evidence-based best practice model that funds programs like the nationally recognized Communities That Care model. According to the Washington State Institute for Public Policy, community mobilization programs demonstrate cost-benefit savings through life skills training, school-based interventions to prevent and reduce drug use, and family-based programs that reduce behavior problems and substance abuse. Communities determine which programs would be most helpful in addressing their specific violence and substance abuse challenges. Commerce also oversees federal Methamphetamine Initiative funding through Community Mobilization contractors.

Drinking Water System Grants and Loans

The Public Works Board, in collaboration with the Department of Health, invests in public and private water systems to meet new and changing standards established by the Federal Safe Drinking Water Act. The Drinking Water State Revolving Fund program provides low-interest loans for capital improvements and assistance in contract management to water systems. The Board staff reviews applications from non-municipal water systems to determine financial capacity to repay the loan, manages the contracts as the project is being constructed and processes loan payments. In addition, the Water System Acquisition and Rehabilitation Program provides grants to public systems to acquire and rehabilitate troubled water systems. This activity also includes the Small Communities Initiative Program, which provides intense technical assistance to water and waste water systems that are under state order to upgrade their systems to comply with Department of Health or Ecology standards. Chapter 79.119A RCW pertains to the state drinking water program.

Growth Management

Growth Management Services (GMS) provides technical and financial assistance on growth management issues, as required by RCW 36.70A.190, so that 320 Washington cities and counties can effectively plan for future growth and economic development. It offers grants, data, training, technical publications, direct consultation, and guidance to local governments to assist in Growth Management Act (GMA) planning. GMS assistance helps reduce litigation over GMA compliance issues, avoiding costs to state and local governments. Staff also extensively supports other state priorities that depend on local land use planning, such as the Puget Sound Action Agenda, greenhouse gas emissions reductions, energy planning, infrastructure funding, and affordable housing.

GOVERNMENTAL OPERATIONS

Local Government Fiscal Notes

The Local Government Fiscal Note Program produces objective analysis of the financial impacts of proposed state legislation on counties, cities, and all special purpose districts except for schools and courts. This program produces the largest number of fiscal notes of any state agency, 14 percent of total notes during the last decade. Local government fiscal notes cover a broad range of issues, such as taxes, criminal justice, natural resources, economic development, social services, energy, land use, and government operations. This program has been in operation for 32 years and is mandated by statute (Chapter 42.132 RCW).

Public Works Infrastructure Grants and Loans

The Public Works Trust Fund finances the repair and expansion of infrastructure systems for local governments. Community service representatives from the Public Works Board staff provide technical assistance (RCW 43.155.020) by helping local governments apply and qualify for loans and financing guarantees from the Board, and helping local governments to improve their ability to plan for, finance, acquire, construct, repair, replace, rehabilitate, and maintain public facilities. In addition, Public Works Board staff manages the contracts as the project is being constructed, including loan fund distribution, and process loan payments.

Inactive - Small Communities Initiative

The Small Communities Initiative program provides intensive technical assistance to rural communities facing the Departments of Health (DOH) and/or Ecology (DOE) regulatory compliance issues. The technical assistance provided to the DOH and DOE selected communities assists in improving the quality of life of residents by determining the best methods of improving basic water and waste water systems and identifying funding sources to finance the required improvements.

Inactive - State Building Code Council

The State Building Code Council was created in 1974 by the enhancement of the State Building Code Act (RCW 19.27) to advise the Legislature on building code-related issues, and was given rule-making authority in 1985 to adopt updated editions of the building codes. The council is composed of 15 governor-appointed members to represent all aspects of building design, engineering, and construction, as well as local government interests and the general public. The council also has four legislative ex-officio members and one state agency ex-officio member representing the Department of Labor and Industries. The State Building Code Council, supported by staff, reviews and approves/disapproves statewide amendments to the state building codes. The council staff provides support to the council and technical advisory groups; provides technical assistance to the construction industry and the public; and conducts studies on building and fire codes as required by the Legislature. The council appoints advisory groups representing industry and government organizations affected by special topics to review national model codes and propose state and national amendments to enhance consistency between states.

Farm Worker Housing

Farm Worker services include the development and preservation of permanent housing for farm workers who remain in the area year-round, seasonal housing for migrant workers, and emergency assistance to migrant farm workers who are homeless or living in unsafe conditions. Collaborating state agencies, housing developers, and local communities is critical to support the agriculture sector in Washington by meeting the need for affordable farm worker housing.

Inactive - Energy Siting and Monitoring

As required by RCW 80.50, the Energy Facility Site Evaluation Council (EFSEC) provides a one-stop siting process for major thermal energy facilities in the state, as well as alternative energy facilities that wish to opt-in to the EFSEC process. EFSEC conducts rigorous application and environmental reviews that include adjudicative proceedings and public hearings to determine if a proposed energy facility will meet federal, state, and local standards, and will propose mitigation for significant environmental and socioeconomic impacts. If the Governor approves an energy facility, a single state permit is issued in lieu of all other state and local permits. Once a facility is sited, EFSEC is required to monitor construction and operation of the facility for compliance with the permit conditions such as air and water discharges, noise, and traffic, and to ensure that the required environmental and socioeconomic mitigation is achieved. Applicants and site permit holders are required to pay EFSEC costs associated in its siting process and permit compliance monitoring.

Homeless Housing and Assistance

Through a range of housing services including short-term rent assistance to prevent evictions; emergency shelter; short-term rent assistance to move homeless and special needs people into housing; and longer term transitional housing (up to two years), this activity reduces homelessness and related social and economic costs, and helps people achieve their maximum level of employment and self sufficiency. Local nonprofit organizations carry out this activity with funds from Commerce distributed through formula and competitive grants. Program resources include the state's Emergency Shelter and Homeless Prevention, Overnight Youth Shelter, Homeless Families with Children and Transitional Housing Operating and Rent Assistance programs, Homeless Grant Assistance program, Washington Families Fund, and Independent Youth Housing Program. Federal resources include the Emergency Shelter Grant and Supportive Housing programs. Operating assistance to housing projects is available from the state Housing Assistance Program for the Mentally Ill and federal Housing Opportunities for Persons with AIDS.

Affordable Housing Development

The availability of affordable housing options is essential to the health and well-being of people and communities. Housing Trust Fund units only serve people with incomes at 80 percent or below area median income. This activity funds construction, acquisition, and rehabilitation of multi-family and single-family housing projects; housing needs studies; housing project compliance verification; housing project asset management, and technical assistance to housing developers and housing managers. Resources include federal HOME Investment Partnership, operating Housing Trust Account, and capital Housing Trust Fund.

The Housing Trust Fund attracts four dollars for every one dollar the state invests in affordable housing, resulting in a \$3 billion dollar investment in the state of Washington. Since 1989, the Housing Trust Fund has committed dollars to 1,576 projects comprised of 35,099 homes and apartments, representing a state investment of \$740 million.

For every 100 multifamily housing units built, 122 jobs are created locally during the first year (80 in construction, 42 in other support activities) and 32 jobs are supported annually each year thereafter through local economic activity according to the 2009 National Association of Homebuilders report.

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Business Development

As the state's primary economic development agency, the Department of Commerce coordinates local economic development projects with state, federal, and private sector resources, proactively identifying and facilitating business recruitment, expansion, and retention opportunities to increase or preserve business investment. The department manages grants awarded to Associate Development Organizations (ADOs) and other economic development focused organizations and ensures grants meet legislative intent; funds, convenes, and facilitates the commercializations of technologies through Innovation Partnership Zones; develops and maintains a business website to promote Washington State as a place to do business; provides a branded platform for the state in communications, marketing, and online to consistently position Washington's innovative business environment; delivers support to ADO network through providing marketing tools, economic data, and access to capital; creates opportunities and forums for Washington companies to develop and promote their products and services; educates national site selectors on benefits of doing business in Washington; and provides marketing kits to third parties to promote Washington State.

Inactive - Community Projects

This activity administers funding for projects that address a variety of community, environmental, economic enhancement, and recreational needs identified by the Legislature.

Asset Building for Working Families

Asset building means improving financial education, planning, and outcomes for working families. Commerce is working with and helping fund the Washington Asset Building Coalition and local coalitions to promote savings and smart borrowing and spending by low and moderate income residents. One program element is Individual Development Accounts, authorized by RCW 43.31.450-485 which contracts with providers and uses account matching funds to help low income residents save and make major asset purchases like a home, higher education, and/or a small business. Additionally, Commerce promotes the Earned Income Tax Credit (EITC) and use of volunteer tax preparation services to increase EITC filing.

Global Trade and Investment Services

Global Trade and Investment Services (GTIS) prepares companies to begin or expand exports; facilitates business introductions; identify international business opportunities for Washington exporters; staff high level trade missions to identify key business opportunities for the state; actively pursue strategic foreign direct investment projects; reports results against the statewide export initiative targets. Also, GTIS provides "new-to-export" training; assistance and support to Washington businesses to optimize their global supply chains; and a branded marketing platform for the state in print and online to consistently position Washington's innovative business environment globally.

Inactive - Statewide Dispute Resolution Centers

This activity provides funding to create and build capacity of alternative dispute resolution programs statewide to ensure that all citizens have access to a low-cost resolution process as an alternative to litigation.

Washington Economic Development Commission

The economic development commission is charged with developing and maintaining a comprehensive economic development strategy and plan for the state, including workforce training, infrastructure development, small business assistance, technology transfer, and export assistance. The Commission met its first major milestone and presented a plan, with findings and recommendations in three areas that will drive economic vitality - talent, investments and entrepreneurship, and infrastructure. It is the intent of the Legislature to update biannually the state's economic development strategy and performance measures and provide advice and oversight of the Department of Commerce, provide planning, coordination, evaluation, monitoring, and policy analysis and development for the state economic development strategy as a whole and on-going advice to the governor and Legislature. The Commission's mandate also includes inventorying all state economic development programs, examining consistency of state programs to the Commission's economic development plan, considering the most appropriate regional and administrative structures for the provision of economic development, ensuring that the state's economic development efforts are organized around a clear central mission and aligning the state's comprehensive plan with other agencies. The Commission, working through its Innovation Advisory Committee, oversees the strategy, criteria, and performance evaluation of the Innovation Research Teams (STARS), Entrepreneur in Residence program, and Innovation Partnerships Zones.

Innovative Research Teams (Entrepreneurial Stars)

With emphasis on accelerated commercialization of public-owned research in Washington, the Commission works in conjunction with the Higher Education Coordinating Board, statewide research institutions, and the private sector to recruit and retain high potential research teams (entrepreneurial stars) to lay the technological foundation of future industry clusters in Washington. Entrepreneurial stars accelerate technical development in areas with high economic development potential. The Innovative Research Team and Entrepreneurs-in-Residence (EIR) programs located in research institutions (Stars Program) work with innovation partnership zones (IPZ), public and private sectors across the state to support, enhance, or develop innovation research teams. The target outcome is to strengthen private investment, job creation, innovation, research, and commercialization capacity in areas identified as useful to strategic energy clusters. The Innovation Advisory Committee provides strategic guidance, selection criteria, and performance measures for the STARS, EIR, and IPZ programs.

Criminal Justice Investments

This activity provides federal funds for local crime prevention, crime investigation, and the prosecution of crime. These programs increase communication and cooperation between governments, businesses, and community organizations in order to increase public safety. Justice Assistance Grant Program funds multi-jurisdictional drug task forces, drug courts, youth violence prevention, crime victim advocacy, criminal records improvements, and tribal law enforcement coordination. The Financial Fraud and Identity Theft Pilot Program provides funds to King, Pierce, and Spokane counties for task forces, prosecutors, law enforcement, and other support to reduce financial fraud and identity crimes. The program's funds are matched dollar-for-dollar by private sector sources.

Inactive - Investing in Local Public Safety Solutions

This activity enhances public safety and economic security in Washington through targeted investments to address specific public safety challenges. Drug Prosecution Assistance Grants fund special prosecutors in six counties to prosecute high level drug traffickers. Every county has access to the special prosecutors for technical and trial assistance. The Children and Families of Incarcerated Parents Program ensures interagency planning to improve services for the children and families of incarcerated parents in Washington. The Financial Fraud and Identity Theft Pilot Program provides funds to King, Pierce, and Spokane counties for task forces, prosecutors, law enforcement, and other support to reduce financial fraud and identity crimes. The program's funds are matched dollar-for-dollar by private sector sources.

GOVERNMENTAL OPERATIONS

New Americans

The New Americans Program was created in 2008, consistent with the Governor's Executive Order 08-01 that affirmed the value new americans bring to the workforce and state economy. The program provides naturalization assistance for the many legal permanent residents who come to Washington to work in high demand occupations in science and technology. This program funds U.S. citizenship preparation so that the State of Washington can retain high demand workers. The program requires that participants are not receiving public assistance and meet all other U.S. citizenship requirements. This contract requires a 25 percent match of non-state funds,

American Recovery Act Funding

Commerce administers federal programs funded under the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act. The purpose of these funds is to create and retain jobs, continue vital services at risk due to the economy's downgraded fiscal condition, and position the state's communities and workforce for economic recovery.

HERA - Neighborhood Stabilization Program Housing and Economic Revitalization Act

Commerce receives federal funding to assist communities with foreclosed and vacant properties. Funds are used to purchase and rehabilitate foreclosed and abandoned homes, provide assistance for homeownership, demolish blight, and create or enhance land trusts.

Economic Development - Business Loans

This activity allows the state to provide direct financing to private businesses without violating the constitutional prohibition of lending the state's credit. Federally funded programs in this activity (Rural Washington Loan Fund, Brownfields Loan Fund, Coastal Loan Fund) assist businesses in rural communities each year with loans of up to \$1 million. The loans leverage substantial local resources from governments, banks, and the businesses receiving the loans. As a result of these investments, businesses are retained, able to expand, and/or move to Washington State. This activity also provides loans from the state-funded Manufacturing Innovation and Modernization and Hanford Economic Investment programs.

Municipal Research and Services Center (MRSC)

The Municipal Research and Services Center of Washington (MRSC) is a private nonprofit agency that provides local government officials with research, information, and advice under a personal services contract with Commerce pursuant to RCW 43.110. MRSC responds to requests for information on municipal law, finance, growth management, public works, management, and operations from Washington's 281 cities and 39 counties. The MRSC's library holds the state's largest collection of municipal reference materials, with over 12,000 volumes. MRSC also publishes many research articles and operates a web site that receives over 3 million visits per year. These consolidated services reduce the need for local staff and are especially crucial to smaller units of local government. The MRSC is principally funded through a small portion of the cities' distributions of the state liquor profits and the counties' distribution of the liquor excise tax.